

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1959

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Mikoyan Visit

Ambassador Menshikov informed Mr. Murphy on December 31 that Mikoyan will be arriving in New York by SAS commercial flight from Copenhagen at 6:50 A.M., Sunday, January 4, 1959. Mr. Mikoyan's party will consist of his son, a Foreign Ministry interpreter, the Chief of the American Section of the Foreign Ministry, a private secretary, and a security officer. Ambassador Menshikov also stated that Mikoyan would immediately proceed to Washington, and would like to see you, the Vice President, Secretary Dulles and Secretary Strauss during the course of his visit. The Ambassador expressed a particular desire that Mikoyan call on Secretary Dulles on Sunday or Monday.

While Ambassador Menshikov has given Mr. Murphy a general picture of the nature and duration of Mikoyan's visit to the United States, he has continued to withhold precise information on Mikoyan's itinerary. Menshikov has explained that Mikoyan and he had "agreed" to make final arrangements as regards Mikoyan's itinerary after the latter's arrival in Washington. The Ambassador has stated, however, that Mikoyan would be in the United States for approximately 15 days and told Mr. Murphy that he (Menshikov) plans to suggest that Mikoyan spend a few days in Washington, visit New York, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles and then return to Washington for the last few days of his visit.

Secretary Dulles plans a stag dinner for Mikoyan during his stay in Washington and Senator Green has raised the possibility of a luncheon at the Capitol with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee and other interested Senators. Mr. Eric Johnston has asked Mikoyan to a dinner in Washington on the evening of January 5 and apparently plans to give another dinner for him in

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Beverly Hills,

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Beverly Hills, California on January 11. We are also informed that Mikoyan will address the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on January 15, and that Mr. Harriman wishes to entertain him in New York on January 14 or January 16.

Although Ambassador Menshikov has so far been unwilling to indicate specific political subjects Mikoyan might wish to discuss, the Ambassador has stated that Mikoyan will be ready to exchange views and opinions with Mr. Dulles and other representatives of the Administration about "all those questions" which might be of interest to the American side. I concur in Ambassador Thompson's view that the chief purpose of Mikoyan's trip will be to "take our temperature" on the Berlin question, as well as to explore the possibilities of increasing trade relations with the United States.

I believe it important that the Secretary be the first United States Government official to see Mikoyan. We are therefore recommending to the Secretary that he receive Mikoyan for a brief courtesy call sometime during the first few days of the latter's visit to the United States.

As regards Mikoyan's request to call on you, I believe it would be useful for you to see him at some stage of his visit here. It would seem desirable, however, to defer any such meeting until Mikoyan has returned to Washington following his visits in other parts of the country.



*Christian A. Bates*

Acting Secretary

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